Lynn Marlow
BS, RHIT,
CCS

Late Effects

Late Effects

- Late effects are
  - residual conditions
  - resulting from previous illness or injury

Late Effects

- Usually requires 2 codes
  - current condition
  - “Late effect” code
- Exceptions
  - Residual not stated in medical record
  - 438.X Late effect of CVA

Late Effects

Acute condition has been **resolved**

- No specific time frame
- Acute condition **not** coded with late effect

- Exception
  - 438.X Late effect of **previous** CVA with **another** current CVA

Late Effects

Notations at late effects code are for reference/confirmation purposes

Example

905.2 Late effects of fracture of upper extremities

Late effect of injury classifiable to 810-819

Late Effects

Inherent late effects regardless of time

- Scarring
- Malunion
- Nonunion

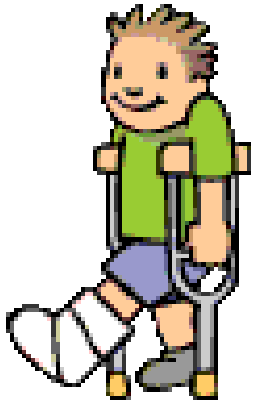
Late Effects

Typical documentation indicating a late effect

- Old
- Due to or following prior injury or illness
- Sequela of
- Late

Late Effects

Late effects of injuries



- Residual condition
- Late effect of specific injury
- Late effect of external cause E code

Late Effects

- Example

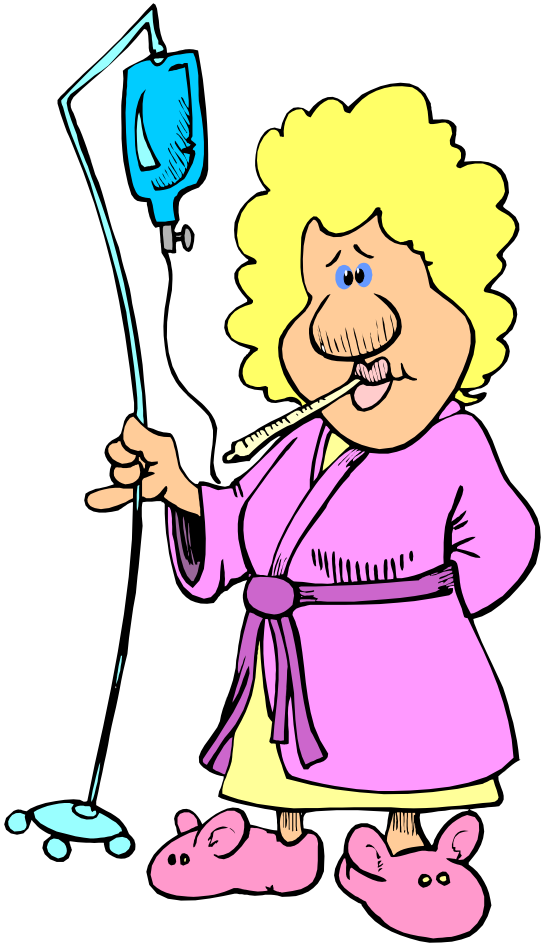
  Arthritis in wrist due to fracture 10 years ago

  - Arthritis (traumatic)716.13 – current condition
  - Late effect of fractured wrist 905.2 – causal condition

Late Effects

Late effects of disease

- Residual condition
- Late effect of specific disease
- Exception – late effect code is italicized



Late Effects

- Example

Vertigo due to bacterial meningitis 3 years ago

Vertigo -current condition

Late effect of

Bacterial meningitis - causal condition

Late Effects

- Example of exception

  Lordosis due to poliomyelitis 10 years ago

  Lordosis

  due to or associated with

  poliomyelitis 138 *[737.42]*

138 Late effects of acute poliomyelitis

737.42 Curvature of spine associated with other conditions

Late Effects

Late effects of CVA

- Most conditions only require one code to identify both residual and causal condition

- Exceptions – nonspecific conditions
  438.5X, .6X, .7X, 438.89

- “Use additional code to identify . . . “

Late Effects

Late effects of medical and surgical complications (AHA CC 1995 4q p41)

- Residual condition
- Late effect of complication
- Late effect E Code indexed under
  - Reaction, abnormal to or following . . . E878-E879 if no misadventure of care documented
  - Misadventure . . . E870-E876 if misadventure documented

Late Effects

- Conditions attributed to prior surgery, but not documented as due to prior complication, are coded as complications not late effects

Late Effects

Late effects of adverse reaction of drugs in therapeutic use

- Current condition
- Late effect of adverse effect of drug – 909.5
- E code from Table of Drugs (AHA CC 1994 4q p48)
- E code for late effect of adverse reactions to drugs doesn’t exist